

THE GLENHAM FIRE DISTRICT STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE AND PROCEDURE	SUBJECT NO. GFD-43-21
DEPARTMENT: Glenham Fire Department SUBJECT: Accountability	

CROSS-REFERENCE:

GFD-43-01 Organizational Statement & General Overview; GFD-43-04 Officer Responsibilities; GFD-43-05 Firefighter Classifications; GFD-43-07 Issuing of Department Gear and Equipment; GFD-43-20 Respiratory Protection Program; GFD-43-22 Self-Contained Breathing Compressor - Fill station and Bottles

Original date of issue: 08/2018

Reviewed:	08/18	02/19	02/20				
Revised:							

Purpose:

Members using SCBA during interior structural fire fighting are deemed to be working in an "Immediately-Dangerous-To-Life-or- Health-Atmosphere" (IDLH).

Standard operating procedures (SOP) must be developed which assure that communications can be maintained between those members working in the IDLH atmosphere and supervisory personnel outside so that their safety can be monitored and assistance dispatched if necessary.

These standard operating procedures must assure that suitably equipped standby personnel, located at the nearest safe area, are available to provide a rapid response to any call for assistance. The size and number of rescue teams will be determined by conditions and the number of fire fighters at risk.

Scope:

- a. The Incident Commander shall appoint an Accountability Officer who shall have the responsibility of maintaining communications with those members working inside of the structure to assure their safety. Such communications may be voice, visual or signal line (i.e., Radio is acceptable voice communication).

- b. Accountability officer will be responsible to accrue any ID tags of all firefighters working within the IDLH and will then issue ID tags back to the firefighter once they report back to him or her.
- c. Members working inside the structure shall work in a mutually supporting team of at least two. These individuals shall maintain close contact with each other such that if one individual suffers some difficulty the other will be immediately aware and be able to render assistance. The contact between these individuals may not be by radio. The contact must be by voice, visual or touch.
- d. The Accountability Officer shall have command of an adequate number of suitably equipped personnel to perform rescue duties should the need arise. Rescue teams shall consist of a minimum of two (2) Fire Fighters who shall be located in the nearest safe area so as not to be affected by any likely incident which would precipitate the need for their services. Members of the rescue team shall not be assigned duties which cannot be abandoned without jeopardizing the safety of others on the fire ground. Pump operators and ladder truck operators may not be utilized as part of the rescue team if the apparatus they are operating are being utilized in the operations being conducted.
- e. The Accountability Officer shall dispatch the rescue team whenever he/she receives a request for assistance from those inside or whenever he/she is unable to determine their status. The Accountability Officer shall communicate with those inside frequently enough to assure their safety.
- f. The Incident Commander shall assure that a minimum of four (4) fire fighters are assembled prior to implementing operations inside the structure involved unless, in his professional judgement, immediate action must be taken to prevent the loss of life or serious injury. Rescue operations shall be conducted in teams of at least two and rescue teams set up as manpower becomes available to the incident commander.

REVISION HISTORY			
Rev	Description of Change	Author	Effective Date